

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2018
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB758

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 17, 2018
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Hughes
One Liner: Require collaboration between natural resources districts and counties under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Geist, Hughes, Kolowski, Quick, Walz, McCollister
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Hughes
Terry Martin

Shad Stamm
Conrad Nelson
Jay Rempe
Don Blankenau

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE)
self
Wallace School Board
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE)

Opponents:

Kirk Olson

Representing:

self

Neutral:

Randy Robinson
Tracy Nelson

Representing:

self
self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 758 would amend the statute that provides duties for natural resources districts and the Department of Natural Resources under the Ground Water Management and Protection Act for fully or overappropriated basins. New language would require a natural resources district, if it acquires private land for a streamflow augmentation project, to collaborate with the affected county's representatives in an effort to lessen impacts to the county's property tax base.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1573 would replace the bill's original language with the following new provisions:

Authorizes a natural resources district or joint entity created under an Interlocal Cooperation agreement that acquires

private land for an augmentation project to make voluntary payments in lieu of taxes to the affected county;

Allows such joint entity or natural resources district to make payments for any year it owns the property, even if prior to this bill's effective date.

States that payments may not exceed the amount that property taxes would have been on the land if it were subject to taxation.

Requires the county assessor to allocate payments to the county's taxing units in the same proportion they would have received if the land were subject to taxation;

Requires a joint entity or natural resources district seeking to develop an augmentation project to provide public notice with the details of the project, to hold a public hearing, and to seek input from the affected county and adjoining landowners to minimize effects of the project;

Requires a joint entity or natural resources district to publish an annual report with details on: the project's operation; the amount of water pumped; leases and revenue gained; taxes paid; the project's financial data; the project's effectiveness; the effect on ground water supplies; and projections for future use;

Requires that a public hearing be held for public comment on the report; and

Requires a joint entity or natural resources district to submit leases on the property to the appropriate county assessor within 30 days of the effective date of the lease.

Dan Hughes, Chairperson